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TUESDAY
APRIL 27, 1954

I went to Galignani's this morning to buy the last volume of Churchill's World War II history. I also picked up Pearson's "Life of Whistler" and Laver's "Life of Huysman" as well as an instruction book on drawing.

Bill Benton came to see me. He has abandoned his idea of running for the Senate from Connecticut in the next election. He says McCarthy is still too strong with the Irish Catholic vote in that State to give him any hope of winning.

I went to the airport to meet Jean Monnet, who arrived from New York about two o'clock. Sylvia, Marianne, and Jacques Van Helmont were there. Van Helmont gave me the draft which will be presented to the Interim Committee tomorrow about democratic control. It had been worked out by Spaak and de Staercke with the various Foreign Ministers concerned. It is rather weak, but we hope it will suffice for Mollet's purposes.

Jean was pleased with the results of his American trip. He secured $100,000,000 as a firm commitment and the promise of the U. S. Government to negotiate with the High Authority on its possible further needs. Monnet is the only man who could have accomplished this.

André de Staercke came in this afternoon and we discussed the paper to be presented to the Interim Committee tomorrow. It is due to his activity and skill, and the strong support of Spaak, that even this limited agreement has been reached. De Staercke asked me informally to sound out General Gruenther on his reaction to the formal statement, expected to be announced by the Belgian Cabinet at its meeting next Tuesday, that Belgium would reduce its length of military service to eighteen months.

All public and political attention in France is centered on Indo-China. The garrison at Dien Bien Phu still holds out and continues to take a thorough pounding.

Nancy Lancaster and the Jameses dined with us tonight.

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